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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended): A compound of Formula II or III:

(II) Acyl-NH-X-[Epitope Tag Site]_A-Y-[Protease Cleavage Site]-Z-Link

(III) Acyl-NH-X-alk-O-Ph-CH₂-Z-Link

where:

A is an integer from 0 to 12;

X is selected from the group consisting of an amide bond of formula -C(O)-NR-, a carbonyl of formula -C(O)-, and an amino acid sequence comprising between 0 to 3 amino acids, where R is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

Y is an amide bond of formula -C(O)-NR-, where R is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or Y is an amino acid sequence comprising between 0 to 10 amino acids;

Z is selected from the group consisting of an amide bond of formula -(CH₂)_B-C(O)-NR-, an amide bond of formula -(CH₂)_B-NR-C(O)-, and an amino acid sequence comprising between 0 to 3 amino acids,

where R is hydrogen or lower alkyl, and

where B is an integer from 0 to 20;

alk is straight or branched chain of alkylene comprising between 0 and 5 carbon atoms;

Ph is a phenyl group optionally substituted with one or more methoxy or nitro groups ortho or para to the -CH₂-group;

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Link is selected from the group consisting of Lys- ϵ -iodoacetamide, ~~Arg- δ -iodoacetamide~~, and Orn- δ -iodoacetamide;

Epitope Tag Site is a sequence of amino acids,

where when A is two or more, the amino acid sequence of each Epitope Tag Site can be the same or different; and

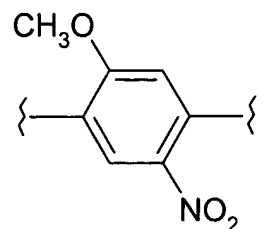
Protease Cleavage Site is an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 that is a cleavage site for TEV protease.

2. (Currently amended) The compound of Claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of Acyl-NH-CASENLYFQGK-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH-C(O)-CH₂I, Acyl-NH-CASENLYFQGOrn-CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH-C(O)-CH₂I, Acyl-NH-CASENLYFQGPK-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH-C(O)-CH₂I, and ~~Acyl-NH-CASENLYFQGPorn-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH-C(O)-CH₂I~~ Acyl-NH-CASENLYFQGPOrn-CH₂CH₂CH₂-NH-C(O)-CH₂I.

3. (Original): The compound of Claim 1, wherein said alk is a straight chain alkylene selected from the group consisting of methylene, ethylene, propylene, n-butylene, and n-pentylene.

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4. (Original): The compound of Claim 1, wherein said Ph is



5. (Original): The compound of Claim 1, wherein said Z is a single amino acid.

6. (Original): The compound of Claim 5, wherein said Z is selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, and valine.

7. (Original): The compound of Claim 1, wherein said Z is a synthetic amino acid.

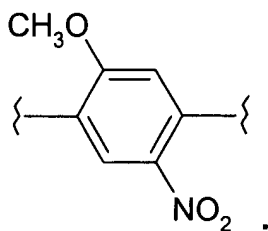
8. (Original): The compound of Claim 7, wherein said synthetic amino acid contains an amino group in a position selected from the group consisting of β , δ , ϵ , Φ , or γ to the carboxyl group.

9. (Original): The compound of Claim 7, wherein said Z is γ -aminobutyric acid.

10. (Currently amended): ~~The compound of Claim 1, wherein said A~~ compound A compound ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the group consisting of: Acyl-CH₂CH₂CH₂-O-Ph-CH₂-G-NH-C(-O)-

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CH_2I , $\text{Acyl-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-O-Ph-CH}_2\text{-A-NH-C(O)-CH}_2\text{I}$, $\text{Acyl-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-O-Ph-CH}_2\text{-}\gamma\text{-aminobutyric acid-NH-C(O)-CH}_2\text{I}$, and $\text{Acyl-CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-O-Ph-CH}_2\text{-V-NH-C(O)-CH}_2\text{I}$, where Ph is



11-20. (Canceled)